

Northampton Mercury

Thursday, December 15, 2011

First published 1720

Cobblers looking for first win in 11 weeks

See back page



Homes and jobs plan for land at riverside

MORE than 80 acres of brownfield land in Northampton is to be bought by West Northamptonshire Development Corporation using its compulsory purchase powers for the first time.

Board members of the Government-backed organisation this week agreed to make a compulsory purchase order to bring the land, surrounding the Avon headquarters, under its control.

WNDC hopes a compulsory purchase will allow it to move forward with plans to regenerate the site, which stretches from Bedford Road to Ransome Road and includes the site of the former Nunn Mills power station.

Talks between the landowners, which include Avon, Persimmon Homes and Northampton Borough Council, had been ongoing for several years but failed to reach an agreement.

Chief executive Peter Mawson said: "Avon Nunn's Mill has been at the forefront of our plans for the regeneration of Northampton waterside and the town centre generally. It's a very significant site."

Chairman John Markham added: "We have to move this forward and this is the only way we can do this reasonably."

Board members also agreed to pay compensation to the current landowners following the sale.

A proposed timescale would see the WNDC, founded in 2004 to promote growth and regeneration in the region, taking official possession of the site by March 2013.

Director of regeneration, Chris Garden, said after the meeting: "There has been long standing plans for that site. I think the potential of it in terms of new jobs, new houses and a new waterside environment is tremendous."



Derelict land near Avon's headquarters in Northampton will be bought and developed

Advertise . . . on a fire engine

BUSINESSES could be given the chance to buy advertising space on the side of fire engines as cash-strapped Northamptonshire County Council searches for new ways to make money.

As part of its annual budget plans, the council said it hoped to make money over the coming year by "exploiting opportunities for sponsorship of vehicles and stations" in the county's fire service.

Leader of the council, Councillor Jim Harker said he would not rule out selling advertisements on the side of fire engines.

He said: "It's certainly worth asking whether local businesses or other interested people would be prepared to put some money into maintaining fire provision."

The council needs to save £28 million over the next year because of a cut in the money it gets from the Government.

Mary 'wrong on town centre'

TOWN centre traders have backed a buoyant future for Northampton town centre despite television celebrity Mary Portas claiming some city centres were now "dead".

In a report commissioned by the Government, the TV retail expert said this week it was too late to save every high street.

But traders in Northampton town centre said positive strides had already been made by the Business Improvement District (BID) as well as Northampton Borough Council.



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Brafield on the Green
NN7 1BDTove Action Group plans to fight a proposal to put 16 turbines near
Easton Neston**Bid for wind
turbines near
stately home****CAMPAGNERS are preparing to fight another wind farm bid in the south of the county which could blot the landscape close to a stately home.**

The Tove Action Group was formed earlier this year after learning Spanish wind farm developer Gamesa was preparing an application for 16 wind turbines in countryside along the Tove Valley Way, which runs east of Towcester between Shutlanger, Stoke Bruerne, Stoke Park, Alderton and Grafton Regis.

But the proposal, known as Tove Energy Park, has still not been submitted to South Northamptonshire Council following an informal public consultation this autumn in Stoke Bruerne, Paulerspury and Towcester, as well as meetings with Alderton and Paulerspury Parish Councils.

A spokeswoman for South Northamptonshire Council said the developer had sought the advice of the planning officers and confidential discussions had taken place about the proposal, as is usual in the pre-application stages of the process.

The wind farm would run close to a number of local villages, as well as the rural Towcester Racecourse and 18th Century country house, Easton Neston. The property was bought for £15million six years ago by the Russian fashion magnate, Leon Max.

Mr Max told the *Daily Mail*: "It would be inconceivable in America to start putting up huge wind turbines next to, say, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, yet in Britain it is now Government policy to have almost no protection for some of the finest houses in the land, just to please Brussels bureaucrats."**Alderman title for
three ex-councillors**

THREE former members of Northampton Borough Council will become the town's latest 'honorary aldermen'.

Members of the council this week agreed that Donald Edwards, Arthur McCutcheon and Barry Massey would be given the honorary position.

The title, which has no powers attached to it, is given to former councillors who have served at the Guildhall for more than 20 years.

Welcoming the nomination of former Conservative borough councillor Mr Edwards, current Councillor Matt Golby (*Con*)*New Duston*) said: "Everybody respects Don and he was very kind to me when I first became a councillor."Paying tribute to Labour stalwart Mr McCutcheon, Councillor Lee Mason (*Lab, Brookside*) added: "I'm delighted to nominate Arthur for this recognition."Discussing former Conservative Councillor Mr Massey's nomination, Councillor Phil Larratt (*Con, East Hunsbury*)**Get skates
on for blind**

A NORTHAMPTON charity is asking people to get their skates on to raise money for people suffering sight loss in Northamptonshire. A fund-raising ice skating evening will take place on Thursday, January 5, at Beckworth Emporium, in Glebe Road, Mears Ashby. Tickets cost £12 and also include a meal at The Griffin's Head pub. The evening will begin at 7pm. Proceeds will go to Northamptonshire Association for the Blind. Booking is essential by calling Northampton 719193.

**Entertain at
Xmas fair**ENTERTAINERS, including singers, musicians, dancers, actors and jugglers, are wanted to perform at a Christmas fair in Brackley. The Court-yard Christmas Fayre takes place in the Market House Courtyard in the town from 10am until 4pm on Saturday, December 17, and performance slots are available throughout that time. Interested parties can enquire at the Court-yard Coffee House or Rowans Gallery. Craftmakers and artists are also wanted to hold stalls at the fair. Pitches cost £5 each. To book email Sally at rowansgallery@uwclub.net or call 01280 840979.**No decision
until 2012**

JUSTINE Greening, the Secretary of State for Transport, has confirmed the decision on the controversial HS2 application will be delayed until 'early next year'. The Government was due to announce the fate of the high-speed rail line between London and Birmingham by the end of December. In a statement the minister said she needed more time to carefully consider the application, after only taking up office in October, following former minister Philip Hammond's move to Defence Secretary. If approved the line would carve through the South Northamptonshire countryside.

Looking to change?

ARE you hoping to change your life in 2012? A career change? A new look? Clearing your debts? Giving up smoking? A fitness Challenge? Our sister paper the *Chronicle & Echo* is planning to run a feature about making new year dreams a reality. If there is something you would like to achieve next year and you would welcome some help from an expert, email yvonne.martin@northantsnews.co.uk and let us know what you want to change in 2012.

Final plans go on show

THE final design for a new skatepark in Northampton will go on show at the Guildhall from 11am to 2pm on Saturday, December 17. The new facility is planned to be built in Midsummer Meadow and will provide a free skatepark for BMXing, skateboarding, roller blading, stunt scooters and other wheel sports. A survey is available online at www.northampton.gov.uk/skatepark.

Xmas art exhibition

A CHRISTMAS art exhibition featuring paintings by artist Michelle Field will run at Towcester Library until January 6. The exhibition, which includes landscape paintings of Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, as well as of canals, wildlife and flowers, opens at 9am each day at the library in Richmond Road, Towcester.

New vets has opened

A NEW veterinary surgery, The Companion Care Vets, has opened inside Pets at Home in Nene Valley Retail Park, Northampton.

Homes staff raise funds

STAFF at South Northants Homes, in Towcester, raised £630 towards a wheelchair for partially paralysed stroke victim Andrew Lawless, aged 49. Staff raised the funds with an office breakfast and raffle.



Vicky, Carole and Hayley from Sainsbury's with Helen McCarthy (matron lead midwife, hospital services), Maggie Berrow (retired midwife who fundraises for the SANDS charity) and Debbie Honey (Sturridge ward sister) at NGH

Supermarket gives hospital special cot

A COT that allows grieving mums and dads to spend more time with their baby in the hours after it dies has been donated to Northampton General Hospital.

The Sainsbury's supermarket in the Grosvenor Centre donated the cold cot to

NGH's Sturridge ward, a labour ward, after one of their staff lost their baby.

It will be used by bereaved parents in a refurbished bereavement suite close to the ward where mums and dads can sit in peace after the devastating loss of their child.

Police launch campaign on thefts of metal

POLICE are to lead a cross-county crackdown on the trade of stolen lead and copper after admitting Northampton had seen a significant increase in the number of metal thefts.

Detectives revealed metal thefts have risen by 13 per cent this year, with more than 100 extra incidents recorded by officers.

Almost 40 per cent of the county's metal thefts have occurred in Northampton itself, with thieves principally targeting copper and lead.

Thieves are progressively targeting railway buffers, stripping empty properties of copper pipes and they have also dug up phone cables, often completely cutting off rural areas.

At the weekend two lengths of copper cabling were stolen from an electrical cupboard, cutting off hundreds of residents and businesses in Great Houghton, Brafield-on-the-Green, Denton and Cogenhoe.

Metal thieves have also hacked catalytic converters from lorries and 4x4 vehicles in the county to then strip them of metals, while church roofs have also been stripped of lead.

Assistant Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police, Martin Jolley, said the force was prepared to target thieves and scrap metal dealers who buy the stolen metals.

He told a meeting of Northamptonshire Police Authority: "There is significant concern both locally and nationally about metal thefts."

"Metal thefts account for 1.7 per cent of all recorded crime and clearly there has been a problem over the last two or three years, particularly with the price of metal going up."

He said the police were launching Operation Silver Fox to make the county "as hostile as possible" to scrap metal thieves and the people who buy their ill-gotten gains.

Mr Jolley said: "The scrap metal dealers who don't play by the rules can expect to be dealt with by way of a firm hand."

"We are also working with other neighbouring forces, because if there is a scrap metal dealer 10 miles across the county border, thieves will just take it there."

Chief Constable Adrian Lee also backed calls for a legal crackdown on cash deals for scrap metal.

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Council will not rule out sale of land

OPPONENTS to plans to build more than 1,000 houses on the edge of Northampton have said they feel 'let down' after councillors refused to back a resolution saying they would not sell the council-owned land.

In October, officials at Daventry District Council approved plans to build 1,050 houses on Buckton Fields in Brampton Lane, despite major opposition from people who live in Whitehills, Kingsthorpe and Broughton.

It later emerged that Northamptonshire County Council owns two-thirds of the 123 acre greenfield site and during a meeting of the authority last week, the Liberal Democrat opposition group tabled a motion calling on the Conservative leaders of the council to publicly confirm they would not sell the land in the face of public opposition.

Councillor Sally Beardsworth (Lib Dem, Kingsthorpe) said: "If the

sale goes ahead, it will be the end of that area, it will be an absolute disaster."

The chairman of the Whitehills and Spring Park Residents' Association (WASPR), Patrick Cross, added: "We don't want development on Buckton Fields because of the traffic chaos it will cause. The land should remain green."

But the Conservative leaders refused to confirm they would not sell the land. Instead they said they would only consider selling it "when there are assurances that adequate local and strategic infrastructure will be put in place".

Cabinet member, Councillor Andrew Langley (Con, Irthingborough) said: "We've nothing to hide, no deal has been signed. We will not sell the land without ensuring adequate infrastructure."

But when the leaders of the council were asked to include the fact the north-west bypass must be built before any houses in an official resolution, they refused.

Review on age limit for taxi vehicles

PEOPLE living and working in Northampton are being asked for their views on whether the borough council should impose an age limit on vehicles used as taxis.

About half of the country's local authorities impose an age limit, but in Northampton there is only a requirement that Hackney carriages (black cabs) must be less than three years old when they are first licensed. There is no upper age limit.

There is also no lower or upper age limit on private hire vehicles.

As well as consulting on whether to adopt an age policy common to all taxis, the council will be asking for views on whether to increase the minimum engine capacity of private hire vehicles from 1400cc to 1600cc, and if certain vehicles should be exempt.

The consultation ends at noon on February 29, with a final decision from the licensing committee due in May. Anyone wanting to contribute can access a questionnaire online at www.northampton.gov.uk/taxiconsultation or call 01604 838968.

Speakers at meeting

SOUTH Northamptonshire's voluntary and community sector forum will hold its next meeting at the council's offices in Springfields, Towcester, from 2pm until 4pm on Thursday, January 19. The main speaker will be Ian Davies, the director of community and the environment at the council, who will talk about its new management structure and future potential changes. Second speaker, Nick King, from volunteer centre SNVB, will introduce the lottery-funded project Village Networks, which aims to connect villages and their residents.

Remember loved ones

PEOPLE who want to remember their loved ones this Christmas can dedicate festive lights to them at a special annual church service. The Friends of Cynthia Spencer Hospice will hold its Tree of Love service at the Cathedral of Our Lady and St Thomas in Barrack Road, Northampton, tonight at 7.30pm. Christmas trees at the service will be decorated with lights.

Messy play at centre

CHILDREN are invited to a messy play session at Stonehouse Church in the Lodge Farm Community Centre, Crestwood Road, Northampton. The event, which will include refreshments, will take place on December 17 from 4pm to 5pm.

Mornings at the museum

PEOPLE aged over 60 are invited to museum mornings at Northampton Museum and Art Gallery. A free session about English Heritage in Northamptonshire will take place at the gallery in Guildhall Road, Northampton on January 12 from 10.30am to noon. For details call Elizabeth Long on Northampton 838544.

Eco homes completed

A DEVELOPMENT of 11 affordable eco-homes has been completed in Wollaston. The six two-bedroom, three three-bedroom houses and two two-bedroom properties were built on the site of the former Shelton's shoe factory in Eastfield Road by Jephson Homes Housing Association, together with Wellingborough Council and Life Space Developments.

Appeal for tinned food

A CHARITY is appealing for donations of tinned food to help soldiers and soldiers' families this Christmas. ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the official charity of the British Army, is looking for basic supermarket tinned supplies like steak and kidney and chicken and mushroom pies; fish; sweetcorn; chutney; or jam. Donations can be taken to Lesley's Ladies Hair Studio, 7 Welford Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, which is acting as a collection point. For more details, call Northampton 713595.

Deadline is extended

EAST Midlands businesses offering student or graduate internships have been given a few more weeks to enter the National Council for Work Experience Awards 2012. The deadline to enter the awards has been extended to January 6. Organisations from all sectors and sizes can enter one or more of the 12 categories available at www.work-experience.org/awards.

Meeting for association

BROOKSIDE Residents' Council will gather for their first meeting of the new year at the Brookside Hall, in Billing Brook Road, Lings, Northampton on January 10 at 6.45pm.

Donations are needed

VETS4PETS in St James Road, Northampton is appealing for toys, treats and blankets for dogs, cats, rabbits or guinea pigs for Animals in Need in Little Irchester and the Algenon Trust in Whittlebury.



Revamped pub a Saints sizzler

THE NORTHAMPTON Saints rugby team touched down at a new look pub to re-open its doors after a £300,000 investment.

The Whitehills Pub in Whitehills Way, Northampton has relaunched with a new menu and the investment by owners Spirit Pub Company has created 30 new jobs for residents.

Whitehills general manager, John O'Donnell, said: "It was an honour to welcome the rugby team down to our great new pub. We know the lads love a good steak with a pint and with our improved beverage offer and

a new BBQ themed menu, it's fitting they should be our VIPs."

He added: "We had an overwhelming response to our recruitment campaign before we closed and the calibre of applicants has been extremely high.

"We've been able to create a team of bright and enthusiastic individuals and we look forward to working together to make The Whitehills a flaming success."

The pub now boasts an authentic chargrill at the heart of its kitchen and offers a new menu of dishes served on a skillet.

Councillor in Cornwall quits role

A COUNTY councillor who moved from Northamptonshire to Cornwall three months ago, has finally announced her decision to stand down.

Councillor Rosemary Bromwich (Con, Towcester) sold her £700,000 home in Litchborough, south Northamptonshire, in September and moved to a £611,000 property 240 miles away, near Launceston.

Despite repeated calls for her to stand down from her seat on Northamptonshire County Council and give up her annual allowance of £7,068, she had refused, insisting she could still represent the people of Towcester from Cornwall.

But as the pressure reached its peak last week, she announced her resignation in a letter to the council's leader, Councillor Jim Harker (Con, Kettering Rural).

She said: "It has been suggested that I can no longer properly dis-

charge my obligations to my constituents. I believe that such suggestions are ill founded and in the main inspired by political opportunism. Since moving to Cornwall in September, and with the aid of modern electronic communications, I have fully represented the interests of a number of individuals and groups. I also believe that I would be able to continue doing so for the remainder of our term.

"However it would seem that my continued presence on the council is now set to become a matter of controversy. This is not the place in which I would wish to be nor would I wish to be the cause of any difficulties for the administration."

Councillor Bromwich will stand down at the end of this month. A by-election for her seat will be held in the new year. It will coincide with a vote which was due to be held to elect a new member of South Northamptonshire Council for Towcester.

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Golfer makes final three for BBC award

A NORTHAMPTON student has been shortlisted as one of the final three contenders for the prestigious BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year award.

Golfing sensation Lauren Taylor, aged 17, who is a second year student at Moulton College's golf academy, has been shortlisted as one of three finalists for the award, as she looks to follow in the footsteps of previous winners including Wayne Rooney, Andy Murray and Theo Walcott.

Lauren, who plays golf at Woburn Golf Club and Northamptonshire County Golf Club, in Church Brampton, won this year's Ladies' British

Open Amateur Championship at Royal Portrush, becoming the youngest ever winner, breaking a 112-year record.

She went on to play against professionals in the Women's British Open at Carnoustie, scoring two credible rounds of 74. In addition, Lauren was selected to be part of the European Team that drew 12-12 with the USA at the 2011 Junior Solheim Cup.

Ian Poulter, Ryder Cup player and world number 25 golfer, paid tribute to her. He said: "I first met Lauren and saw her play this year at the IJP Invitational, a junior golf tournament that I host at Woburn Golf Club."

"She is not only a great golfer, who in fact won the tournament that day, but an extremely well round-

ed young woman."

The other contenders for the award are cyclist Lucy Garner, became the Junior Road Race World Champion this year in Copenhagen, as well as Eleanor Simmonds, the paralympic swimmer who won four medals at the IPC European Swimming Championships, in Berlin.

The judging panel is chaired by BBC's John Inverdale, who said: "This is the strongest field we've ever had for this award, it was an extremely tough decision to shorten the list down to three."

The winner will be announced at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2011, which will be live on BBC1, on December, 22.

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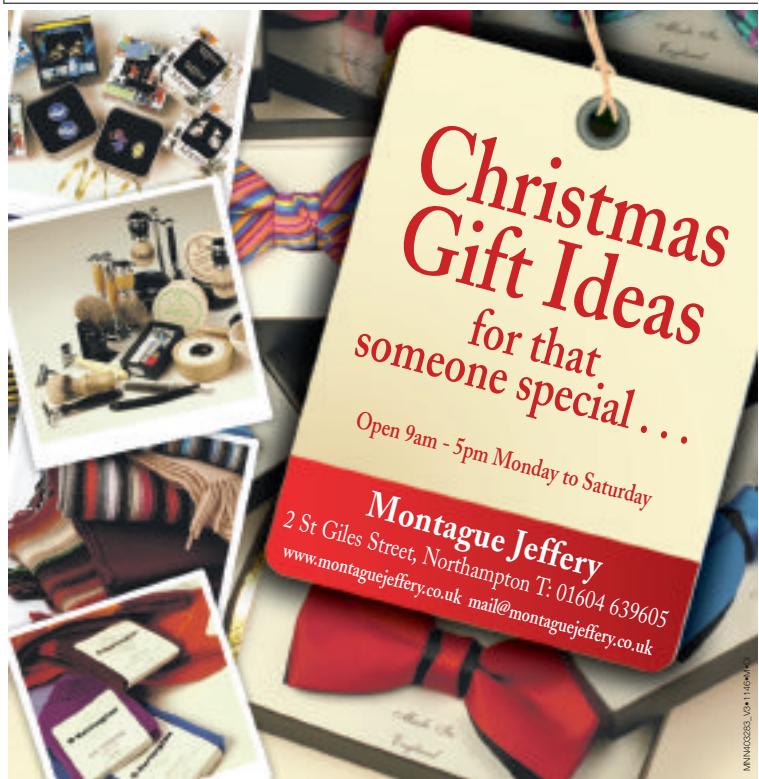
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Inspectors' fears over academy bid

A SCHOOL faces a fresh battle in its quest to become an academy after an Ofsted inspection revealed a further fall in standards.

Daventry's William Parker School has been given a notice to improve by an inspection report set to be published this week.

The school is currently working towards becoming an academy, but must now improve its Ofsted grading at its next inspection, due in 12 to 18 months.

Inspectors visited the school at the start of November, just four weeks after an interim super-head - Krysia Butwilowska - was drafted in after the latest in a series of disappointing GCSE exam results.

In September, at the start of the academic year, the school's headteacher Jason Brook announced he would be stepping aside while problems at the school were addressed.

Mrs Butwilowska said: "It seemed like the inspectors had arrived with the idea that we should be a special measures school.

"But when they looked around and discovered what we were already doing to tackle the problems, they agreed we are doing the right things."

"Although it was a bit stress-



William Parker School in Daventry has put its plans for academy status on hold after Ofsted inspectors gave it a "notice to improve"

ful when Ofsted said they were coming, I'm glad they did do an inspection at that point. It's given us a mandate for change."

Despite the report hailing the

"green shoots of recovery" at the school however, the grading means William Parker cannot become an academy until it improves.

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County women to carry the torch

TWO Daventry women will be among 6,800 torchbearers representing the UK at the Olympics next year.

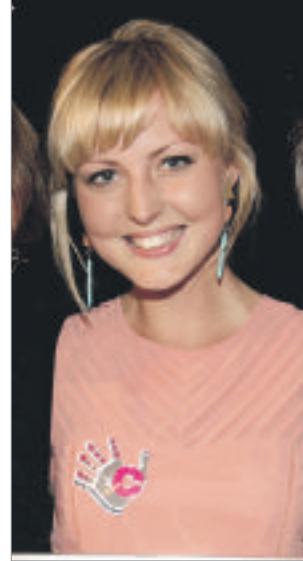
University student Rachel Nafzger and charity founder Kristin Hallenga, aged 26, chosen separately, received their conditional offers to take part in the 70-day Olympic Torch relay next summer.

Volunteering champion Rachel Nafzger, from Daventry, was nominated through Coca-Cola's public nomination campaign for her community work, both in Northamptonshire and in Plymouth where she attends university.

The student was praised by her Student's Union as a 'hugely positive role model' for not allowing her disability from stopping her to achieve.

Rachel said: "It is such a special honour and, given the number of people who were nominated, I feel very lucky indeed. I hope that my story encourages others to find ways to get involved with their local community and that people will come out and support me along the way."

Kristin, who was recently hailed Ultimate Campaigner in the Cosmopolitan Ultimate Women of the Year Awards, launched CoppaFeel after being diagnosed



Above, left, Rachel Nafzger and Kristin Hallenga, right, who have been picked as torchbearers in the build-up to the Olympics next year

with breast cancer at 23 years old by doctors who first dismissed her symptoms.

The University of Northampton graduate battles the disease whilst running a successful na-

tionwide charity urging young men and women to 'get to know their boobs'.

The final Torchbearer team will be revealed in March following security checks.

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Flu jab uptake increase

UPTAKE of the free flu jab among pensioners is up by more than 10 per cent in Northamptonshire but many younger people are still ignoring calls for the potentially vital inoculation.

At the end of October 2010, only 44 per cent of over-65s had been vaccinated by their GP against the prevailing strains of the influenza virus. This year NHS Northamptonshire has revealed the figure is 55 per cent, with some practices reporting figures as high as 70 per cent.

However, although the percentage of at-risk people aged under-65 has increased from 24 per cent to 31 per cent, GPs are still worried about the low numbers.

For more information go to www.northamptonshire.nhs.uk/flu

Tributes paid after former publican Jack dies, aged 91

"Jack" Clifton has a final pint before retiring from The Golden Horse in 1989, and pictured (inset) in his later years



A FORMER publican, who was a licensee in Northampton for nearly 30 years has died, aged 91.

Great-grandfather John Clifton passed away at Northampton General Hospital last Monday.

Known as "Jack" to his friends, Mr Clifton was licensee at The Golden Horse pub in Far Cotton and at The Bakers Arms in Bugbrooke for a total of 27 years.

Born and brought up in Duston, his first job was at the former Northampton Brewery Company (NBC) on the site of the current Carlsberg factory.

In his younger days he was an accomplished sportsman, playing for both the brewery and Delapre Cricket Club, once taking all 10 wickets for only 15 runs against the borough police.

After leaving the brewery, Mr Clifton became publican at The Sun Inn in Hardyston, also being elected general secretary of the Northamptonshire Licensed Victuallers Association.

Many local publicans benefited from his help and advice during his time in the role, and he was active in social and charity events, including the provision of guide rails for the gardens of Darsdale Blind Home in Raunds.

Mr Clifton, and his wife Peggy, took over The Golden Horse in Southampton Road, in 1954, and became well-known among members of the local community over the next two decades.

After moving to The Bakers Arms in Bugbrooke for a few years, they returned to Far Cotton in 1981 for their retirement.

Mr Clifton was carer for his wife for several years until her death in 2008, after which he continued to live in the area, gardening, spending time with his great-grandchildren, and attending the local railway and social clubs.

His son, Peter, said his father was a born publican. He said: "My mother was outgoing and loved company. She wouldn't go anywhere she couldn't see or hear people. They both generally liked being with and meeting people. My father was a community man. He was part of the community and everyone knew him."

Mr Clifton leaves his son, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.

His funeral was at Milton Crematorium yesterday.

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Passionate saints fans taking part in the University of Bath experiment

Fans most passionate

SAINTS supporters may still be smarting after the recent defeat on the pitch to bitter rivals Leicester Tigers but they can at least take comfort in knowing they won the battle off the pitch.

The two sets of supporters went head-to-head in a battle in the stands to scientifically find out which of the two East Midlands rugby rivals have the most passionate fans.

And despite seeing a last-gasp Tigers try break Saints' hearts, the Northamptonians have now officially been crowned as the most passionate fans in the region.

As part of a season-long project being run by Aviva, a research team from the University of Bath undertook a variety of experiments on a

set of 13 fans from each club during the game.

The supporters were strapped up to heart monitors and had their hormone release measured through saliva levels during 80 minutes of action. The data was then entered into an "equation for passion".

And the final result, which saw Saints fans triumph over their counterparts in the loyalty and physiology departments, saw Northampton fans win 156-148.

A Saints spokesman said: "It was a game that pretty much had everything in it so it is not a surprise the fans got very involved."

"There were plenty of highs and lows and for a while it looked like we would win the game only to have to snatched out of our hands."

Hospital admits risk of low morale among staff following death stats

BOSSES at Northampton General Hospital have admitted there is a risk of low staff morale because of the impact of negative mortality figures.

The Dr Foster organisation released its controversial calculations last month that appeared to show there were more deaths than their should be at NGH in a 12-month period.

Hospital chiefs have since explained that actual numbers of deaths are

lower than anywhere in the East Midlands, but that the Dr Foster calculations produce an artificially low figure of predicted deaths, making the figures seem alarmingly high.

However, the Dr Foster figures have been widely reported, and Dr Sonia Swart, the NGH medical director, said in the latest trust board papers she was concerned about the effect on the hospital.

She said: "There is a risk

of poor staff morale relating to failure to deliver high quality care and poor record keeping and coding will only accentuate this problem and make it difficult to ensure that staff understand exactly what their role in improving care is."

A possible reason for low mortality predictions is the precise logging of medical information and Dr Swart said that is now being addressed.



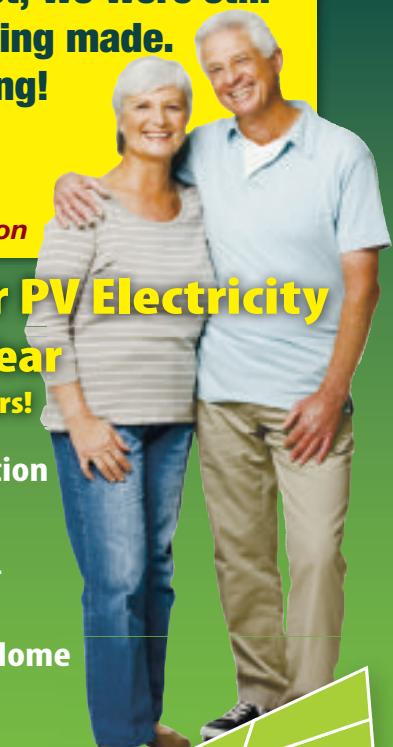
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Son of soldier tracks down war medals

A MAN from Northampton found his father's war medals 45 years after they were sold by the ex-soldier to help look after his family ... at an auction house in Australia.

Corporal Leslie Jeynes was living in Henry Street, Northampton town centre, in 1944 when he was posted to Anzio in Italy where he won the Military Medal for taking charge of a party of soldiers after a devastating mine blast despite being badly injured himself.

However, in the 1960s, with little money and a wife and nine children to feed, he decided to sell the bravery medal along with five more campaign medals, telling his children they were in Abington Park Museum.

In later years, one of his sons, Steve, 56, from Brixworth, having discovered the true story from his mum, was persuaded to search for them by a neighbour who is a serving soldier.

But, to his surprise, he found them on the other side of the world.

He said: "Chip, who's a staff sergeant, had persuaded me to have a look on the internet but I hadn't done anything about it. I was watching the *Antiques Roadshow* – it was the week before Remembrance Sunday – and a set of medals almost identical to my dad's, from the Italy Cross to the Military Medal, came on the screen.

"I realised they weren't his but it made me do an internet search based on what I'd seen and I found them almost straight away.

"They had been sold a few years ago and for some reason they were still prominently on an auction website but in Sydney, Australia."

Mr Jeynes excitedly rang Sydney in the middle of the night UK time, and managed to speak to the owner of the auction house. He was able to pass on Mr Jeyne's details to Australian militaria auctioneers, I S Wright who amazingly still had the full set of medals.

After being told it would cost £2,300 to buy them back, largely because of the story behind the Military Medal, Steve hesitated but soon had second thoughts.

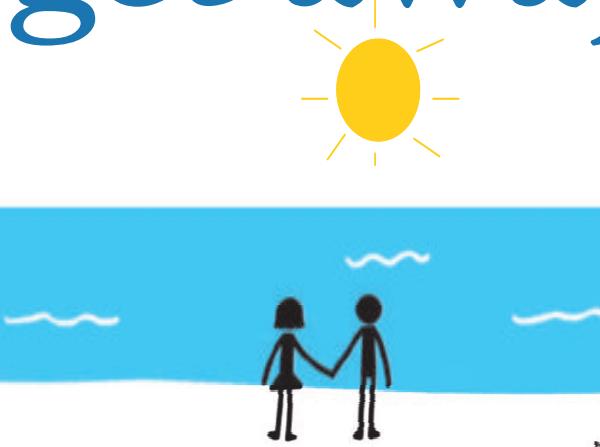
He said: "Chip and a few other people said I would be mad not to get them back having come across them like this and after so long and they were absolutely right.

"My dad loved talking about his service and we are so proud of what he did. If the shrapnel that hit him had pierced him or he hadn't acted in the way he did, I probably wouldn't be here."

"My mum is 91 and in a nursing home and I took them to her last weekend and she was in tears and she kept saying: 'Why did he do it?'.

"But we're all so pleased they're back where they belong now after all this time, with his family."

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Mystery bidders for troubled football club

TOWN leaders and supporters are backing two mystery bidders for Kettering Town in the hope they will breathe fresh life into the troubled football club.

The club is in a fight for survival after chairman Imraan Ladak put it up for sale and said he was no longer willing to supplement players' wages.

With players leaving,

manager Mark Stimson, right, now has just 13 squad members to pick from.

Town figures and fans expressed sadness over the club's recent demise off and on the field but hoped for a fresh start under new ownership.

Kettering Council leader Russell Roberts, said: "Kettering Town is a football club which has been going for a

very long time and it is always upsetting when any club finds itself in difficulty.

"I do hope someone comes along and breathes fresh life into the club to provide the town with a team it can be proud of."

"I'm happy to hear a couple of people are showing interest in buying the club - people should applaud that and get behind them."



Above, Vera Jeynes with the war medals earned by her late husband, Leslie, pictured below left. The medals were bought back into the family by her son, Steve, pictured below right, who paid £2,300



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Police chief in county crime rise fear

A SENIOR police chief has warned spending cuts and a continuing economic downturn were likely to lead to increased crime across the county.

Northamptonshire Police Authority heard anti-social behaviour in the county was currently at an all-time low, with reports of nuisance behaviour down by 22 per cent. It means there has been almost 8,000 fewer recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour this year compared to last year.

Crime has also continued to fall across the county, despite a recent spike in vehicle crimes

and robbery.

However, Martin Jelley, Assistant Chief Constable at Northamptonshire Police, warned it would be hard to maintain the figures as the number of police officers and PCSOs, who lead the fight against anti-social yobs, started to fall.

Police have said 25 PCSOs were expected to leave the force in the next four years to save money. Northamptonshire County Council also revealed it was proposing to cut its £100,000-a-year funding for community officers.

Addressing levels of anti-social behaviour, Mr Jelley told the

police authority: "All sectors are showing reductions, right across the county. It is testament to the work of the Safety Community Teams and our PCSOs, who lead the work. But there is also a slight concern over the next year or so as their numbers are squeezed."

Northamptonshire has seen the total number of recorded crime fall by around a quarter over the past five years, with officers leading the fight against burglars, drug dealers and car thieves.

Mr Jelley paid tribute to officers for keeping crime levels down

despite the economic uncertainty, but warned the force faced greater challenges if the economy did not pick up.

He said: "All of this needs to be put in the context we are working in. The country is in a difficult place financially and history tells us during recessions crime increases and it is going to be increasingly difficult next year.

"The national trend tells us that crime is increasing. I think the picture here at the minute is quite positive but definitely things are getting more challenging as we move forward."

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Sea Cadets bid to improve facilities

THE SEA cadets in Northampton could soon have an improved headquarters.

Plans have been submitted to Northampton Borough Council to carry out improvement works at the organisation's current base at Becket's Park in the town centre.

The work would see new toilets and changing facilities created at the cadets' base as well as improved training rooms and a new building to store canoes.

Documents submitted to the council by the organisation said: "The aim is to provide future cadets with superior accommodation which will enable the unit to provide suitable training accommodation for activities."

"The cadets wish to construct a well-designed headquarters building which provides better accommodation more suited to the needs of the 21st century."

The Sea Cadets have

been based at Becket's Park since 1951.

They use their current building in the park three evenings a week and at weekends.

Schools also use the building alongside the organisation.

The Sea Cadets currently have 126 members who range in age from 10 to 18. There are also 35 unpaid volunteers between the ages of 18 and 86.

Plans for the improvement of the group's current headquarters were submitted to Northampton Borough Council earlier this month.

They will now be considered by officials from the planning department at the Guildhall before being put before the council's planning committee.

It is expected that the plans will be put before the planning committee by the end of January next year, when a final decision will be made on whether or not the development should be allowed to go ahead.



Northampton Sea Cadets would have new, improved facilities at Becket's Park under new plans submitted to the borough council

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Entertainment

The films to see this Christmas... .

NEW YEAR'S EVE (12A)

A starry cast of familiar faces hope to be struck by Cupid's arrow before the clock strikes midnight in Times Square in New York. Randy (Ashton Kutcher) is stuck in an elevator with a beautiful stranger (Lea Michele), while Paul (Zac Efron) agrees to help record company secretary Ingrid (Michelle Pfeiffer) achieve all of her resolutions in exchange for tickets to the biggest party of the year. Elsewhere in the city, Tess (Jessica Biel) prepares to give birth, businessman Sam (Josh Duhamel) searches for his soul mate, and terminally ill Stan (Robert De Niro) clings onto life under the care of nurse Aimee (Halle Berry).

Rating: Two stars



The cat's whiskers

PUSS IN BOOTS 3D (U)

The story begins with the young Puss (voiced by Antonio Banderas) being abandoned at an orphanage where kind Imelda (Constance Marie) raises the kitten as her own. Initially picked on by the boys, Puss learns to fight to survive and he helps protect fellow outcast Humpty Alexander Dumpty (Zach Galifianakis). Many years later, the surrogate brothers join forces with sexy pickpocket Kitty Softpaws

(Salma Hayek) to steal magic beans currently in the possession of murderous outlaws Jack (Billy Bob Thornton) and Jill (Amy Sedaris). These beans are rumoured to grow a beanstalk that leads to the giant's castle and the greatest treasure of all: the Golden Goose.

However, old rivalries between Puss and Humpty jeopardise the daring enterprise.

Rating: Four stars (out of five)



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A VERY HAROLD & KUMAR 3D CHRISTMAS (18)

Harold (John Cho) has lost touch with his buddy Kumar (Kal Penn) and has turned his life around by ditching the reefers, clambering up the corporate ladder and marrying Maria (Paula Garces). Their attempts to get her pregnant on Christmas Eve are interrupted by the arrival of Maria's father Carlos (Danny Trejo) and the entire Perez clan carrying a 12-foot Douglas fir tree that the formidable patriarch has been growing for the past eight years.

Fate conspires to reunite the

estranged buddies and a spark from Kumar's discarded marijuana joint sets the beloved Christmas tree alight. Determined to impress Carlos, Harold heads into the night in search of a replacement fir with Kumar, buddy Todd (Thomas Lennon), teenager Adrian (Amir Blumenfeld) and Todd's infant daughter in tow. As midnight approaches, when the Perez are due to return from Christmas mass, they cross paths with an old acquaintance, actor Neil Patrick Harris (playing himself), who might be able to solve the tree dilemma.

Rating: Three stars



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Entertainment



Band set to play iconic album in full

STEELEYE Span will revisit one of their most iconic albums, Now We Are Six, at The Castle theatre in Wellingborough tonight.

Playing as a six piece for the first time in many years, the band will play the 1974 album in its entirety to open the show.

Joining Maddy Prior, Peter Knight, Rick Kemp and Liam Gencockey is guitarist Julian Littman and multi-instrumentalist Pete Zorn.

With a career that has taken in six decades, Steeleye Span are not just a legendary name in British music but also a link to the classic days of rock and folk music.

Contemporaries of the likes of Led Zeppelin and Fairport Convention, they have gone on to take the genre from small clubs and festivals to the top of charts and on international tours.

To celebrate this tour, fans will be able to get their hands on Now We Are Six Revisited which contains a live version of the album and a collection of classics, rarities and audience favourites.

Steeleye Span play The Castle tonight.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18.50.

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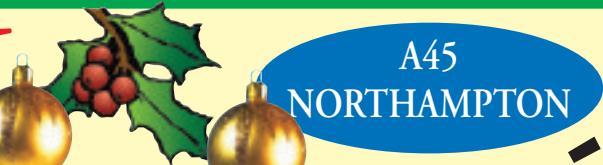
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Entertainment

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Northampton: Full Throttle, King Billy, bottom of Bridge Street.

Northampton: Looking Back (50/80s), The Trumpet, Wellingborough Road, Weston Favell.

Northampton: Alan Newton, Kingsley Park WMC.

Northampton: Earth Man Sounds, Jessie from Inspirational Radio, The Crispin, Clare Street, 8pm-late.

Northampton: Anna, Vocal Club, Bailiff Street.

Northampton: The Ramblers, Swan and Helmet, Clare Street.

Northampton: Cabaret and Christmas raffle with Debbie Miles and Neil Warner, Monks Park WMC, Wellingborough Road.

THEATRE

Northampton: Aladdin, Derngate stage, 2pm and 7pm. Box office 01604 624811.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland, Royal stage, 2.15pm and 7.15pm. Box office 01604 624811.

OTHER

Northampton: Northants Inter-varisty Club. Multi-activity and social and leisure club for professional or like-minded people; various days and locations. www.northants-ivc.org.uk

SATURDAY

MUSIC

Brafield: Inside Job (duo), WMC, A428, Bedford Road, 8pm.

Northampton: Blues in the Afternoon The Nook, Fishmarket, 2pm-4pm.

Northampton: Weston Favell Singers

in Concert, Park Avenue Methodist Church, 7.30pm; tickets £5; seasonal refreshments; parking in County Cricket Club.

Northampton: The Ginger Pig Christmas Party with the New Orleans beat, The Picturedrome, Kettering Road; entry £5. 01604 230777.

Northampton: V8, King Billy, bottom of Bridge Street.

Northampton: 70/80s party night, Lord Byron, Kingsley Park Terrace.

Northampton: Lightning Joe, Crown and Anchor, Victoria Road.

Northampton: Harmony (duo) Queen's Park WMC, Cranbrook Road.

Northampton: Gaz (vocalist), Thomas a Becket, St James Road.

Northampton: Kay T Daley, Northampton WMC, Sheep Street.

Northampton: Donnybrook Fair, Duke of York, St Andrew's Road, Semilong.

Northampton: Great Divide live plus DJs, Black Bottom Club, George Row. 01604 233401.

Northampton: Darren (vocalist), Foundryman's Arms, St James Road.

Northampton: Peter Mylatt, Swan and Helmet, Clare Street.

Northampton: Junction 15, Molly's Bar, Abington Square.

Northampton: Nataya, British Rail Club, St Andrew's Road.

Northampton: Kim Leonie, Monks Park WMC, Wellingborough Road.

Northampton: Midnight Hour, Kingsley Park WMC.

Uppingham: Come Dancing Christmas Party Dance from ballroom to disco, Town Hall, 8pm-11pm; tickets £6 include buffet (bring your own drinks). Newcomers please call 01572 757686.

THEATRE

Corby: SHAPE Dance, Corby Cube,

1pm and 5pm. Box office 01536 470470.

Kettering: Cinderella, Lighthouse Theatre. Box office 01536 414141.

Maidwell: Looking Glass Theatre presents Jack and The Beanstalk, Loader Hall, 7pm. Box office 07711 540546.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland, Royal stage, 1.15pm and 5.15pm. Box office 01604 624811.

Northampton: Aladdin, Derngate stage, 1pm and 5pm. Box office 01604 624811.

SHOWS AND SALES

Earls Barton: Santa's Grotto, White's Nurseries, 10am-5pm daily until Dec 24; real reindeer, pets corner, arts and crafts, carol singing, trees, wreaths and much more. Child (grotto £5), adults £2, family (2x2) £12.

Northampton: St Peter and St Paul's Winter Fayre, Abington Church Rooms, Park Avenue North, 10am-midday.

Northampton: Jumble sale, St James community centre, 10am-11.30am. Cat Rescue.

Northampton: New to You sale, Park Square, Kings Heath, 10.30am-1pm.

Oundle: Antiques and Collectors' Fayre, Great Hall, Oundle School, Sat & Sun, 9.30am-4.30pm; adm £2, child free. Field Dog Fairs, tel: 01780 410286.

OTHER

Northampton: Christmas Carol Service, Northampton Seventh Day Adventist CEVA School, Harlestone Road, 6pm-8pm. Donations to the Hope Centre.

Northampton: Chess Point. Come and learn to play chess or improve your game; all ages; beginners to seasoned

players, St John House, 33 Billing Road, 11am-5pm; £2 per visit. 01604 517406.*

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Bisworth: Tad Newton's Jazzfriends featuring Simon Spillet, Walnut Tree, Station Road, midday-2.30pm; food available. Adm £10 (come early!).

Brafield: Bryan G (vocals/guitar), WMC, Bedford Road (A428), 7.30pm.

Chapel Brampton: Acoustic night; bring your own instruments; sound equipment provided, Brampton Halt, Pitsford Road.

Northampton: Sean Grew (charts, rock & 60/70s) The Edge of Town, Regents Square, Sheep Street, 6pm; bar snacks.

Northampton: Toad (covers band), King Billy, bottom of Bridge Street.

Northampton: Atlanta, Queen's Park WMC, Cranbrook Road.

Northampton: Horse and Jerusalem, Swan and Helmet, Clare Street.

Northampton: Singalong session by the Prince of Wales Rattlers, St Peter's Church, Marefair, 2.30pm; adm £2.

Northampton: Jam session, Crown and Anchor, Victoria Road, 9pm.

Northampton: Acoustic open mic jam session, Sir Pickering Phipps, Wellingborough Road, 8.30pm*.

Northampton: Acoustic open mic jam session, Fox and Hounds, Harborough Road, 8pm*.

Northampton: Jazz night, The Longboat, Eastfield Road, Duston*.

Northampton: Singalong with keyboard player every Sunday, Royal Navy and Royal Marines Club, Lorne Road; members and guests welcome. Northampton 620471*.

Northampton: Nighthawks, Spread Eagle, Wellingborough Road, 5.30pm-8.30pm.

Northampton: Family afternoon with Apollo Disco and Santa, Monks Park WMC, Wellingborough Road (no time given).

Northampton: Tony Craig, Kingsley Park WMC, Kingsley Park Terrace. **Old Stratford:** Folk session, The Swan (evening).

Oundle: Baroque Christmas by Candlelight Concert, St Peter's Church, 7.45pm. Adults £12.50 plus concessions. Box office 01832 274734.

THEATRE

Northampton: Aladdin, Derngate stage, 1pm and 5pm. Box office 01604 624811.

Northampton: Alice in Wonderland, Royal stage, 1.15pm and 5.15pm. Box office 01604 624811.

Titchmarsh: Looking Glass Theatre presents Jack and The Beanstalk, village hall, 2.30pm. Box office 07711 540546.

OTHER

Desborough: Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight, United Reformed Church, Union Street, 4pm.

Newton Bromswold: Children's Carol Service, St Peter's Church, 10am.

Northampton: NSG Group. Naturist Club meets in the Northampton area for swimming, sauna, yoga and aqua aerobics; families welcome. 08707 654326.

PRESERVED RAILWAYS

Chapel Brampton: Northampton and Lamport Railway, Pitsford Road. Trains running from 11.45am Sundays; volunteers always wanted. 01604 820327*.

An Evening of Clairvoyance with Stephen Holbrook

30th November 2011

Kettering Conference Centre, Thurston Drive, Kettering, Northants, NN15 6PB

Booking Line 01536 506123 or 01536 506129 during the hours of 9am - 5.15pm (manned Mon - Fri only)

Doors Open

7.00pm

Show starts

7.30pm

Tickets

£16.00

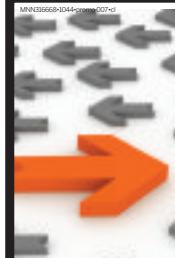
or £17.00

on the door

'Steve Holbrook, my best friend and spiritual advisor for the past 14 years. Thank you for making me feel wonderful, how do you do it?' Jane McDonald

'Britain's most gifted medium' USA Psychic Review

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26th November – 24th December*
From 9.30 a.m.

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Children £8.50, Adults £7.00

General visit not meeting Santa £7.50 per child
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Thursday, December 15, 2011

ROADTEST: Honda Civic 2.2 i-DTEC EX

REVIEW BY IAN DONALDSON

A far more civil affair



GOODY for Honda, letting me drive an old-style Civic on the same indifferent Spanish roads it had chosen to launch the new one, being delivered to eager owners from early 2012.

Mostly this doesn't happen; perhaps because the car maker is worried its new baby won't live up to its new star billing.

Honda had more confidence, after listening to owners of the old, big selling (and Swindon-built) Civic, who were mostly happy about their cars but could suggest several avenues for improvement.

There were the obvious ones, applicable to every new model anywhere; make it sip less fuel and emit fewer nasty emissions from its exhaust.

Then there were the changes aimed directly at the Civic; smooth out the ride, quieten the engines and make the interior feel more upmarket.

Buyers already enjoyed their Civic's distinctive style, inside and out and admired the way clever design had unleashed more space for people and luggage than you'd ever imagine from the car's modest dimensions.

So the new one is clearly a thorough reworking of the old to look at, this time a bit more squared off, a little lower and wider and

a touch longer too. The rear window is now gently reworked with a repositioned bar splitting the two pieces of glass, greatly improving rearward vision, and a wiper now means you can see behind in the rain. The lower section is now heated too.

Inside, softer surfaces and a bit less glitz around the instruments make the new Civic feel like a car from the class above, and now up there with the fearsome opposition provided by the likes of the Golf and Focus.

Under the bonnet sit usefully improved versions of the old engines; 1.4 and 1.8 litre petrol and a 2.2 litre diesel. A smaller 1.6 diesel is due late in 2012 and will allow Honda, belatedly, to attack the company car market, mostly ruled out at present because the current diesel is too big.

And so to the drive: will the newcomer drive like a new generation Civic, despite using some (unseen) parts of the old one, if reworked in detail for their new application?

The short answer is yes. Driven back to back, the old car felt loud and hard riding by comparison. The difference was surprising, to say the least, considering how the two cars' on-paper descriptions are so similar.

Driven first was the 1.8 litre petrol, which needed revving up anything ap-

proaching a Spanish motorway incline to maintain momentum, although a gear-change made slicker this time made progress less of a bind.

But the Civic to choose, if you can justify its extra cost, has to be the diesel version.

With twice the pulling power of the petrol model it shrugged off the hills in fifth and loped along the uncrowded motorways in sixth gear with a gentle hum from up front.

Driven with similar verve, the petrol car gave me 39mpg, the diesel managed a more impressive 50mpg. Case proved, I'd say. If the extra £2,100 the diesel costs over the equivalent petrol model can be made to make sense for your motoring budget, that is.

Prices start at £16,495 for the slow selling 1.4 litre petrol Civic and top out at an airy £26,595 for the bells and whistles diesel EX GT.



FACTFILE

CAR: Honda Civic 2.2 i-DTEC EX
PRICE: £23,845

DRIVETRAIN: 2.2 litre 148bhp diesel engine, 6-speed gearbox

PERFORMANCE: Top speed 135mph 0-62mph 8.5 seconds

ECONOMY: Euro average 67.3mpg

CO₂: 110g/km road tax £0 first year, then £20

SIZE: 4300mm long 1770mm wide

SAFETY: EuroNCAP not tested

INSURANCE: Group 19

WARRANTY: Three years or 90,000 miles

Audi

Audi A3 1.6, Hatchback, 3 door, 106k miles, Black, Petrol, 1997, R reg, 12 Months MOT, £1,000 obo Tel: 01536 746050

1997

£1,000 obo

Daewoo

2002, 02 reg, 3 door hatchback, silver, petrol, a/bags, alloys, e/w, f/s/h, p/a/s, full Mot, 81,000 miles, new cambelt. Excellent condition inside & out. £695 obo Tel: 07828 197753.

2002

£695 obo

Ford**FORD KA**

2002, 02 reg, 3 door hatchback, silver, petrol, a/bags, alloys, e/w, f/s/h, p/a/s, full Mot, 81,000 miles, new cambelt. Excellent condition inside & out. £695 obo Tel: 07828 197753.

2002

£695 obo

Ford KA 1.3, Hatchback, Petrol, 1999, V reg, MOT Aug12 TAX Feb12, Great first time/2nd car (cheap fuel/tax). £750 obo Tel: 07891423060

1999

£750 obo

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Ford Mondeo Edge

2.0, Estate, 5 door, Diesel, 2008, 57 reg, FSH with print out A/C blue tooth, CD/DVD usual spec, G/C 140,000 miles, service price recent cambelt and clutch mot nov 2012, £3,895 obo Tel: 07939460055

2008

£3,895 obo

FORD FIESTA Zetec

1.4, Petrol, Silver, 06 reg, MOT July 2012, Tax Jan 31st 2012, £3425 obo Tel: 01604 754249 or 0779 200 7037

2006

£3425 obo

FORD FIESTA Style

1.2, Hatchback, 3 door, 92,000 miles, Red, Petrol, 2000, X reg, 8 months MOT and road TAX.. £550 obo Tel: 01604 475149

2000

£550 obo

FORD FIESTA

1.3, Hatchback, 3 door, 54,000 miles, Petrol, registered Nov 2005, moon dust silver, a/c, 2 lady owners, 12 months Mot, 6 months tax, fsh, serviced Nov, £3100 obo Tel: 01858 446921

Nov 2005

£3100 obo

FORD FIESTA

Fiat Punto Dynamic 1.2, Hatchback, 5 door, 114000 miles, Petrol, 2002, 52 reg, MOT 04/12 TAX 02/12. Tel: 07584256533

2002

£1,000 obo

Ford**FORD ESCORT**

W reg, 5 door, Silver, 11 months Mot, no Tax, nsh. Genuine reason for quick sale

£500 obo

Contact 07407794427

Ford KA

1.3, Hatchback, 3 door, 65,000 miles, Petrol, 2000, W reg, cd player air con, e/w, £1,350 obo Tel: 07530196966

2000

£1,350 obo

Ford KA

1.3, Hatchback, 3 door, 65,000 miles, Petrol, 2000, W reg, cd player air con, e/w, £1,350 obo Tel: 07530196966

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£1,350 obo

Ford KA

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Ford KA

1.3, Hatchback, 3 door, 65,000 miles, Petrol, 2000, W reg, cd player air con, e/w, £1,350 obo Tel: 07530196966

2000

£1,350 obo

Ford KA

1.3, Hatchback, 3 door, 65,000 miles, Petrol, 2000, W reg, cd player air con, e/w, £1,350 obo Tel:

Ford**Ford****Ford****Jaguar****Mercedes****Mazda****MONDEO 2L**

Silver, petrol, 02, taxed end February, MOT May, 109,419 miles, good runner, good condition throughout, £500 ono for quick sale
Tel: 01536 513722 or 0787064703

2002

£500 ono

FORD MONDEO Zetec

2.3, Saloon, 4 door, 118,000 miles, Metallic blue, Petrol, 2002, 02 reg, a/c, e/m, e/w, MOT, multi cd, s/h, traction control, airbags, rear parking sensors, 18" alloys VGC throughout, £1100
Tel: 01933 387986

2002

£1100

**Jaguar X-Type S**

2.5, Saloon, 4 door, 56,000 miles, Racing Green, Petrol, 2005, 55 reg, Beige Leather interior, Walnut dash, AWD; MOT & TAX 2012; Service History; Excellent Condition.
£6,250 ono Tel: 07766 640831

2005

£6,250 ono

Mercedes

Mercedes-Benz C Class Classic 2.2, Estate, 5 door, 92,000 miles, Diesel, 2005, 55 reg, FSH, 6 tax, 12 MOT, £6,300 Tel: 07880653809

2005

2006



1.3, Coupe, 4 door, 27000 miles, Mica Red, Petrol, 2006, 06 reg, Only 27000 with Mazda FSH, Excellent condition, 231 BHP Non Smokers car, £5,500 ono Tel: 07930 547418



£5,500 ono

Lexus**Lexus IS SE-L**

2.2, Saloon, 4 door, 141,000 miles, Grey, Diesel, 2007, 57 reg, Excellent condition, full service history MOT Sept 2012 Taxed Recently serviced, Multimedia spec satnav DVD reversing camera, touch screen phone operation, Manufacturers warranty available, £6,750 ono Tel: 07860 347455

2007

£6,750 ono

Land Rover**LAND ROVER FREELANDER .**

1.8, 4x4, 3 door, Black, Petrol, 1999, T reg, 6 months MOT, new tyres, twin sunroof, tow bar, e/w very good condition all round, £975
Tel: 07879941300

1999 £975

Mitsubishi**Mitsubishi Shogun Warrior**

3.2, 4x4, 3 door, 72,000 miles, black, Diesel, 2007, 07 reg, mitsubishi shogun VGC, leather interior, heated seats, electric windows, sat nav, dvd player, multi cd player & blue tooth phone, £10,600 ono Tel: 07793085349

2007

£10,600 ono

Nissan**Peugeot**

Nissan Micra S 1.0, Hatchback, 3 door, 30,000 miles, Silver, Petrol, 2002, 02 reg, 6 month MOT/tax, £1,695 Tel: 07790491698

Peugeot 106 XR 1.5, Hatchback, 5 door, 45,000 miles, blue, Diesel, 1996, 2 owners tax & 12 month mot, £875 ono Tel: 07858049434

Peugeot**PEUGEOT 307 Station Wagon**

2.0, 2, petrol, automatic, Panoramic sunroof, cd, e/w, air con, abs, v/r/l, alloy wheels, 16 inch, 16000 miles, MOT, £1,000 Tel: 07551 542436

2003

£1000

Peugeot 308 Verve

1.4, Hatchback, 5 door, 83,000 miles, Silver, Petrol, 2009, 59 reg, Only one owner and still under 3 years warranty, It's in a very good condition, Good value for a quick sale for £7,300 ono Tel: 07884348278

2009

£7,300 ono

PEUGEOT 206 1.1 Look

2.02, 02, reg, 3 door Hatchback, 82,000 miles, metallic silver, blue, petrol, new service, 12 months MOT, Tax til end of Jan 2012, very good condition, reliable motor, £1,295
Tel: 07823 885271

Tel: 07973 839969

2002 £1695

PEUGEOT 206

1.1, Hatchback, 5 door, 71,000 miles, Light Grey, Petrol, 2002, 52 reg, 12 months MOT, Tax til end of Jan 2012, very good condition, reliable motor, £1,295
Tel: 07823 885271

2002 £1295

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**CAR OF THE WEEK**

07 DAIHATSU SIRION S 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, metallic black paintwork, 36,000 miles from new, fully documented service history, dealer + 1 private lady owner from new power steering, air conditioning, £30 a year road tax, electric windows, cd player £3495

03 PORSCHE BOXSTER 2.7, metallic silver, only 40,000 miles from new, full porsche service history, full leather interior, air conditioning, fully loaded sporty two seater with low mileage..... £10,495

58 FORD FIESTA 1.6 TITANIUM 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, only 33,000 miles with full service history, 1 lady owner from new, power steering, parking aids, alloy wheels, air conditioning, remote central locking, full leather, electric windows, rear parking sensors, great value £995

04 BMW Z4 2.2 CONVERTIBLE 2 DOOR, metallic grey paintwork with grey electric hood, 72,000 miles with full service history, sports leather interior, cruise control, air conditioning, climate control, electric windows, power steering, upgraded alloy wheels, all the usual bmw refinements for only £6995

01 MERCEDES BENZ S320 CDI TURBO DIESEL, full service history, leather interior, TV, satnav, fully loaded, mot july 2012, tax feb 2012, metallic blue, just had a full service, pure luxury for only £5495

57 FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI GHIA 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, metallic blue paintwork, electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels, power steering, full Ghia refinements, only 73,000 miles with full service history, Ford + 1 lady owner from new, superb condition £5495

06 PEUGEOT 407 TURBO DIESEL ESTATE SE 2.0 HDI, only 79,000 miles, full service history, power steering, electric windows, cd player, air conditioning, alloys, full panoramic roof, metallic electric blue, excellent value estate car £4295

02 MERCEDES BENZ C200 ELEGANCE AUTOMATIC, only 63,000 miles, fully documented service history, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, remote central locking, this car is in absolutely pristine condition, cherished by its previous owner, usual Mercedes Benz refinements £4295

07 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTI EXCLUSIVE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, 6 speed, in silver, 92,000 miles, full service history, cambelt changed at 80,000 miles, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, remote central locking, absolutely stunning, private plate included £3995

06 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 SVE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK metallic blue, 54,000 miles, full service history, Motability + 1 private owner from new, full climate control, electric mirrors, electric windows, power steering, factory fitted sat nav, remote central locking, taxed & mot till June 2012, this Almera is the top of the range model all for just £3995

56 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACTIVA 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, finished in metallic silver, nissan + 1 private lady owner from new, only 39,000 miles with service history, air conditioning, alloy wheels, power steering, electric windows £3495

06 FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, only 53,000 miles with service history, metallic electric blue paintwork, power steering, electric windows, remote central locking, 1 previous owner, mot august 2012, great family car £3495

53 FORD FIESTA 1.4 LX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, only 24,000 miles, yes, only 24,000 miles from new with fully documented service history with all old mot's & every service invoice, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, cd player, electric mirrors, mot sept 2012 £3495

02 SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 JLX 3 DOOR, finished in metallic silver paintwork, 64,000 miles, full service history, power steering, electric windows, central locking, new mot, useful small 4x4, get ready for the snow £2995

06 KIA PICANTO 1.1 LX 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, only 41,000 miles, dealer + 1 private owner from new, service history, bright red paintwork, air conditioning, electric windows, power steering, cd player, cheap to tax & insure £2995

53 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE PETROL 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, only 71,000 miles with full service history, 1 lady owner from new, metallic electric blue paintwork, alloy wheels, cd player, power steering, air conditioning, electric mirrors, remote central locking, mot aug 2012 £2495

03 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, finished in metallic silver, service history, cd player, power steering, electric windows, remote central locking, mot nov 2012, cheap tax & insurance, ideal first car £2495

06 SUZUKI ALTO 1.1 GL AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, 1 owner from new, yellow paintwork, fully documented service history, power steering, central locking, electric windows, cd player, excellent value for this small economical automatic £1995

53 KIA RIO 1.3 L 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, finished in bright red paintwork, genuine 24,000 miles from new, service history, power steering, 1 owner from new, 12 months mot, cheap tax & insurance, totally outstanding condition, must be seen £1995

52 MG ROVER ZS 1.8 SALOON, 80,000 miles with service history, electric windows, power steering, sports trim, finished in british racing green paintwork, colour coded, alloy wheels, mot June 2012, taxed £1495

PART EXCHANGE

P NISSAN ALMERA 1.4 SPECIAL EDITION EQUATION 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, 83,000 miles, service history, power steering, finished in bright red paintwork, long mot, cheap tax & insurance £795

S CITROEN XANTIA 2.0 TURBO DIESEL, mot until march 2012, excellent work horse £695

00 ROVER 25 1.6 IXL 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, 84,000 miles, service history, electric windows, power steering, air conditioning, remote central locking, bright red paintwork £695

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PEUGEOT 406 DIESEL 1.9

Red, 2000, Y reg, 10 months Mot, good condition. Excellent runner. New brakes & clutch. Top end engine rebuild. £950 ono Tel: 07976 571753

2000 £950 ono



Renault Clio Expression 1.2
1.2, Hatchback, 3 door, 95,000 miles, Burgundy, Petrol, 2003, MOT July, £1,495 ono Tel: 01933 83164

2003 £1,495 ono

Renault

TOYOTA LUCIDA ESTIMA

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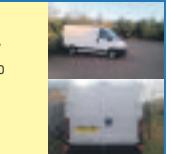


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Family Announcements

Births

DAVIES

Glyn & Ann Davies are very pleased to announce the birth of their Grandson **Benjamin Jacob** on Monday 28th November. Son for Matthew and Veronica (Nee Ayres) Love and best wishes from both families.



OGDEN Nee GARRETT
Gordon and Sue are pleased to announce the arrival of their fourth precious Grandchild **Jemima Esme Grace**, Daughter for Sophie and Neil, Sister for Tristan and Madeleine. Love Mum, Dad, Victoria, Peter, Bertie, Emily and Mark.

Engagements

Spring Wedding Show

Kettering Conference Centre
Sunday 26th February 2012

Free admission with the chance to win £300 towards your wedding.

Fashion Shows at 11.30am & 1.30pm

01536 506123 for more information



Obituaries

BLAND Jack

Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on 8th December aged 89 years. Devoted Husband to Wendy, Cherished Dad to Sue, John and Phil and Adored Pop to Maria and Daniel.

Your star will shine brightly, So you will always be in our thoughts and always in our hearts. Good Night, Sleep well, We love you so very much.

Funeral Arrangements to follow.

BRABBINS Christopher

In memory of Christopher.

A friend and Husband to Lisa, very sadly lost too soon in love and friendship from all his family (in-laws).

The Funeral service to be held at the Crematorium, Milton Malsor, on Friday 16th December at 2pm. Flowers or Donations to Cancer Research UK may be sent c/o The Co-operative Funeralcare, Barrack Road.

BROWNE — Thomas. Sadly passed away on Monday 5th December aged 70. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten, your beloved Wife Julia and family, Thomas, Jackie & Danny, Ian & Shannon, Kerry, Dunny, Riley, Lexi & Tommy, Kylie, Tarry & Lacey xx x

TO PLACE YOUR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS CALL 01604 515000

BROWN Tom

R.I.P.

Passed away 5/12/2011 in NGH. Late of Portlaoise CO Leix. Loving Husband to Julia, Dad of Thomas, Jackie and Ian. Dear Grandad and Great Grandad. Loving Brother to Anne, Brother in law of Richard, Dear Brother to Kathleen and Olive, Uncle to Perry, Rick and Des and Families. At home now with all our loved ones, your memory will never go away.



Obituaries

DANIELS Roy

Aged 80. Died peacefully at home on 9th December. Beloved Husband of Audrey, devoted Father of Trevor and Karen (Daughter in Law), loving Grandfather of Lisa, Brendan and Nathan and Great Grandfather to Noah and Oliver. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral arrangements to follow.

DANIELS — Roy. Loving Brother and Brother in Law of Colin, Barbara and all the family. You will be sadly missed Roy, but never forgotten. God Bless.

DANIELS — Roy. Thanks for your friendship over the years. Sleep peacefully. Love Phil, Frances and family.

DAY Jean

Sadly passed away on Saturday 3rd December

Much loved Mum of Glennis & Robert Alison & Michael Greatly loved Grandma of Adam & Laetitia, Mat & Fran, Ben, Tom. Much missed Great Grandma of Lauren, James, Marianne & Anne-Sophie

The Funeral Service will take place Friday 16th December 1.15pm at The Counties Crematorium, Milton

DEXTER Sheila

Passed away peacefully at Pritchley Court Nursing Home on Sunday 4th December 2011. In my heart Mum you will always stay. Loved and remembered everyday. At peace now and Reunited with Dad. Love from your Son Ian. xxx

At a celebration of his life will take place at Bournemouth Crematorium on Thursday 22nd December at 2.15pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired may be made to Zetland Court c/o Harry Toms Limited, Barham House, 31-33 Tower Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH1 4LA. 01202 394340

BROWN Tom

R.I.P.

Passed away 5/12/2011 in NGH. Late of Portlaoise CO Leix. Loving Husband to Julia, Dad of Thomas, Jackie and Ian. Dear Grandad and Great Grandad. Loving Brother to Anne, Brother in law of Richard, Dear Brother to Kathleen and Olive, Uncle to Perry, Rick and Des and Families. At home now with all our loved ones, your memory will never go away.



Obituaries

DESTER Sheila Mary (nee Austin)

On December 4th 2011 aged 90 years

Deary loved Wife of the late Ted Loving Mother of Rosemarie and Derek, Ian and Denise Much loved Granmie of Heather and Andrew Great Granmie to Katie, Joseph, Emily, Brodie and Seth

The funeral service will take place at St. Botolph's Church, Church Brampton on Monday December 19th 2011 at 12.30pm

Family flowers only please but donations if desired may be made to St. Botolph's Church, c/o B. Hollowell & Son Funeral Directors 148 Beech Avenue Northampton NN3 2JN

DEXTER Sheila

Peacefully passed away on Sunday 4th December 2011 at Pritchley Court Nursing Home. God saw that you was weary and did what he thought best. He put his arms around you and took you home to rest. Memories are a gift to treasure, ours of you will last forever. God Bless you Sheila. Love from Denise and Sandra. xxx

DICKS — Mary. Died Dec 3rd 2011. Dear Sister in law of Violet, Joan, Bernard, Alec and families. Rest in peace.

FIELDING Vernon (Bob)

Dearly loved Father of Margaret and Mary, Husband of the late Eve Died peacefully at Zetland Court, Bournemouth, on Friday 9th December.

A celebration of his life will take place at Bournemouth Crematorium on Thursday 22nd December at 2.15pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired may be made to Zetland Court c/o Harry Toms Limited, Barham House, 31-33 Tower Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, BH1 4LA. 01202 394340

HUDSON Edith Evelyn

Passed away peacefully in Cliftonville rest home on the 7/12/11 aged 89. Much loved Wife of Husband Jack and Mother of John and Partner Pet. She will be sadly missed by Granddaughter Tasha. Also loving Sister of Horace and Bernard. The Funeral Service will be held at Towcester Road Cemetery at 2pm on 20/12/11. Immediate family. Flowers only. Donations if desired by cheque to AGE/UK via Co-operative Funeral Care.

SPENCE Les

Loved Uncle of Robin. Dear and respected Friend of Mary. A true Gentleman in every sense. Our love to Jenny, Michael and Family.

MACPHERSON Mary (cis)

After a brave fight, sadly passed away on 2nd December 2011 at her home age 72. Devoted Wife of William, beloved Mum of Paula, Andy and Billy, dearest Nan of Donna, Jamie, Krystal, Ryan and Tiffany. We all miss you so much, may you rest in peace.

The funeral will be held on Tuesday 13th December at 1.45 at Kettering Crematorium. We would like to ask everyone who attends to bring a single peach rose, with your own messages attached. Thank you.

Obituaries

GROSS Gordon

Passed away peacefully on 7th December 2011. They say memories are golden, well maybe that is true, but we never wanted memories, we only wanted you. Your ever loving Wife Audrey xx x

Funeral arrangements to follow.

GROSS Gordon

Passed away peacefully on 7th December. Will be sadly missed by his Son Martin and Daughter in Law Mandy. A loving Pap to Liam and Gemma. Goodnight, God Bless xx x

The Funeral Service will be held on Friday 16th December at 10.15am at The Counties Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Alzheimers Society may be sent c/o B Hollowell & Son Funeral Directors, 01604 792222.

NICHOLS Gladys

Sadly passed away 5th December 2011.

The funeral service to be held at St. Lawrence Church, Long Buckby on Friday 16th December at 2pm. Flowers or donations, which will be divided between Macmillan and Age UK c/o Towers & Sons Church Street, Crick NN6 7TP 01788 822349

Acknowledgements

HALTON Madge

The family of the late Madge Halton would like to thank all family and friends for their kind messages of sympathy and for all who gave donations to Cancer Research UK.

Special thanks to Canon C H Davidson and B. Hollowell & Son for their assistance.

CHAMBERS Ray (Chab)

Obituaries

OXLEY Doris

Doris nee Blencowe. Passed away at home on 5th December. Sleeping peacefully. Sister to Freda, Auntie to all Nieces and Nephews.

OXLEY Doris Lilian

Died at home aged 92. Mother of Geoff and Daughter in Law Ada. Rest in Peace. Funeral 12.30pm on Tuesday 13th December at Milton Crematorium. Flowers to S.E. Wilkinson & Son, Grove Road, Northampton.

OXLEY Doris Lilian

Died at home aged 92. Mother of Geoff and Daughter in Law Ada. Rest in Peace. Funeral 12.30pm on Tuesday 13th December at Milton Crematorium. Flowers to S.E. Wilkinson & Son, Grove Road, Northampton.

Obituaries

HENELL Bobbie

Clive and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind words of comfort they gave us for our sad loss.

Also our thanks to Macmillan Nurses, Cynthia Spencer Hospice, Age UK, Leicester Terrace Health and Care Co-operative Funeralcare for all their help and understanding and last but not least the Reverend Dr Graham St John Willey for his kind and thoughtful sermon.

NICE Peter Albert

Irene and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy, flowers and donations to Cancer Research, following the sad loss of Peter.

Thank you to Philip Snelsor for the lovely service. Also greatful thanks to Doctors and Nurses on Creton Ward NGH and staff at Ann Bonhamas for their support and kindness.

TROOP Jean

Jean and family would like to thank all the staff of Becket Ward NGH for their care of Jean and all the many friends and family who sent condolences. You kindness and support is appreciated.

In Memoriam

ENRIGHT Denis

Passed away 12th December 2009

Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered everyday. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts he's always there.

Loved and missed so much by all his family. xx x

BAKER Karl

7-12-2002 In loving memory of my wonderful Son.

Always in my heart and forever in my heart

Love Mum.

The Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30pm at The Chapel of

The Counties Crematorium Milton.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation may be sent to B. Hollowell and Sons, Funeral Directors, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton NN3 2JN.

BANNARD Lesley

We cannot believe it's been a year already Mum. Missing you very much.

We will remember you always.

The stars above will always remind us of your love.

Tony, Sue, Alfie and Saffron. xx x x

HAYNES Tony

Loving you always, Forgetting you never. Memories are sweet.

Love Duncan, Janice and family xx x x x

HOLLIDAY Daisy

Passed away 8th December 2010.

Dearest Mum, Granny and Little Granny.

You are always in our thoughts,

and forever in our hearts.

Night, night, God bless, all our

love, always, Neil & Pam,

Sally & Mark, Mark, Rachel,

Thomas and Oliver xx x x

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In Memoriam

HOMER

In memory of Russell James Homer whose life was suddenly taken on 7th December 2010.

Mr & Mrs Homer, also Daughter Rosalind, also Grandson wish to thank all who came along where Russell was laid to rest at St Nicholas Church, Overstone.

Thank you dear friends and the Village Boys. Sadly missed.

SIMS Kevin

1st Anniversary. December comes with sad regret, you left my side but never my thoughts. Love x Wifey x

VARNESVERRY Susan

December 10th 2005. Solely missed, never forgotten

Love always Rofik & Dean x

WOOD Bill (Willie)

14th December 2004. Here again love, to tell you how I still miss and love you always, so good night see you soon Wife Sylvia and family xx.

BIRTHDAY Memories

WAKE Wendy

12-12-40

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A14 Trunk Road at Junction 1, in the County of Northamptonshire in connection with work taking place at M1 Junction 19 (Cathorpe).

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading from the westbound carriageway of the A14 at Junction 1 to its junction with the A5199.

The closure is expected to come into effect at 2200 hours on Friday 6 January 2012 and last for 24 days. The Order will come into force on 4 January 2012.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services will be exempt from the closures. A diversion route via the M1 Junction 19 will be well signed.

For further information, please contact John Bower, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 07966 249654.

Mike Lloyd, A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

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Mercury Sport



GETTING HIS MESSAGE ACROSS - Cobblers striker Adebayo Akinfenwa celebrated scoring the 100th league goal of his career in Saturday's 1-1 draw with Crewe Alexandra with a cheeky dig at any detractors he may have. Bayo has always been a target for away fans' banter for his size, but as his T-shirt says, he can laugh off any suggestions that he's not up to the task of being a professional footballer.

PICTURE: SHARON LUCEY

Boss Aidy backing Robinson to shine

AIDY BOOTHROYD is backing miss-firing frontman Jake Robinson to finally find his shooting boots.

And the Cobblers boss even believes the former Shrewsbury Town man is a player that can ply his trade at a higher level - providing he starts to believe in himself.

Robinson arrived at Sixfields in the summer as one of then manager Gary Johnson's marquee signings.

The diminutive frontman came with a big reputation having scored goals to help both the Shrews and Torquay United - where he was on loan in the second half of the campaign - to the league two play-offs last season.

In all, Robinson notched 16 goals last term - including twice in the Shrews' 3-1 win over Ian Sampson's Cobblers at the New Meadow - but, worryingly, has now failed to find the target for nine months.

His most recent goal was for Torquay at Macclesfield on March 19, and he has failed to hit the net in 32 appearances since then.

His spell at Sixfields has seen him in and out of the side, and although chances have been few and far between in a struggling side, when they have materialised, Robinson has fluffed his lines.

Robinson was even made available for transfer in Johnson's final days at the club.

But Boothroyd has seen enough in his two weeks with the squad to suggest that Robinson's barren spell won't go on, and hinted he is going to be a major part of his plans for the Cobblers.

"I think Jake is a terrific player and if he thought he was as good as I think he is then he wouldn't be at this club," said Boothroyd.

"He's lively, he's got a goal in him, he's great coming off the left and he can play up front in a two."

"I just see really good things coming from him."

"I can't point the finger and say he didn't give his all on Saturday and that's all I can ask for."

The Cobblers will be aiming to claim their first npower League Two win since October 1 when they travel to Oxford United on Saturday (ko 3pm).

■ BAS SAVAGE has had his contract terminated, and has left the Cobblers. The striker signed on at Sixfields in August, but failed to find the target in 10 appearances for the club.

Mallinder defends Wood over cards

SAINTS boss Jim Mallinder has dismissed any notion that two cards in a week has wrecked Tom Wood's hopes of captaining England.

The Saints flanker has been tipped as a possible candidate to lead his country ever since Lewis Moody announced his retirement, despite the Saints forward appearing in just two of the games at the World Cup.

And on Saturday in the Heineken Cup defeat at Castres, Wood suffered a 62nd-minute yellow card which came hot on the heels of his red card for being involved in a mass brawl at Leicester.

Mallinder, though, spiked any thoughts that Wood has a disciplinary problem that caretaker Eng-

land boss Stuart Lancaster should be aware of.

Mallinder said: "If anybody has seen the way Tom is playing, he is putting his hand up to play for England if not captain them."

"The discipline is not an issue."

"The yellow card could have happened to anybody in a maul like that, I don't think you should take that into consideration."

"He plays and sets a tremendous example, but so does (Saints skipper) Dylan Hartley. We have some good leaders in our team and England will choose the captain they want."

Mallinder and Saints were more than a little mystified by Wood's yellow card in France, and it proved a decisive moment as Castres pulled away to win 41-22.

Wood was the only experienced head left in Saints' back-row and after conceding 40 points for the first time since a 40-5 defeat at London Irish in November 2006 in a season when Northampton were relegated, Mallinder admitted the injuries and suspensions in that area hurt.

Phil Dowson will again be suspended for the return leg on Saturday, while Calum Clark and Roger Wilson are injured.

Mallinder said: "You don't want to lose two of your senior back-rowers, in Dowson and Clark."

"We have lost them and Roger Wilson, we have lost three of our most experienced back row and that is always going to hurt."

It was left to Academy back-rower Ben Nutley and American Samu Manoa to fill in and, given they were

up against the third best team in the French Top 14, Mallinder was full of praise for their efforts.

"I thought the back row played well," said Mallinder.

"There was some unbelievable tackling from Samu, some real big hits and I thought Nutley got around the field well and worked really hard."

"Young Jamie Elliott had a great game as well."

"You have got to look at the positives and if you look at the end of the game at the number of young English lads coming through from the Academy who were on the pitch, to have experienced a Heineken Cup can only be good in the long run."

Saints are back in Heineken Cup action this Sunday when the entertain Castres (ko 3pm).

